

Oregonians asked to look for beetle infestations

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Agriculture is asking for the public's help in detecting the presence of two exotic wood-boring insect pests that are known to kill trees in other parts of the U.S. The Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash borer have not yet been found in Oregon.

"This is the time of year when Asian longhorned beetles are likely to emerge from feeding inside tree trunks and damage by either insect can be seen," said Kathleen Johnson, supervisor of ODA's Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program.

The Asian longhorned beetle is native to China and Korea. Infestations have been found in Illinois, New Jersey and New York in the U.S. and in Ontario, Canada.

The only known means of eradicating the pest is by cutting and chipping trees. The beetle is black with white spots, one to one-and-a-half inches long with extra-long black and white antennae. It attacks living, healthy trees by boring deep into the bark and wood.

The emerald ash borer has caused extensive damage to trees in the Midwest. Adult beetles are metallic green and about one-half inch long. Signs of infestation include small, D-shaped emergence holes, branch or dieback with branch or root sprouting below the dead tissue and serpentine feeding tunnels in sapwood.

Call the ODA's Plant Division at 1-800-525-0137 or the Invasive Species Hotline at 1-866-INVADER.